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Chinese biz visitor slams city's bad roads, garbage dumps

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER numerous complaints from people and industry leaders, a Chinese business visitor has now slammed Bengaluru for its pathetic roads and garbage dumps all over.

The investor was visiting Biocon Park and shared his experience with Biocon founder and Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. Shaw, who has time and again expressed dissatisfaction over failed infrastructure in Bengaluru, shared the Chinese business visitor's remark on her social media account.

She posted on X, "I had an overseas business visitor to Biocon Park who said, 'Why are the roads so bad, and why is there so much garbage around? Doesn't the Govt want to support investment? I have just come from China and can't understand why India can't get its act together, especially when the winds are favourable?'"

She tagged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DCM DK Shivakumar and IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge, urging them to take immediate action. The post has gone viral since it was posted on Monday and has been seen by over 6.5 lakh people. She wrote, "It's the same problem across the country. But at least we should show the way for world-class infrastructure."

TAKEUP WORK UNDER CSR: P2



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian (R) at an event in New Delhi | EXPRESS

\$15 bn Google AI hub joint venture in Vizag

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

TECHNOLOGY giant Google on Tuesday announced a partnership with Adani Enterprises and Airtel to develop India's largest AI data centre campus and new green energy infrastructure in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The new hub will bunch AI infrastructure, data centre capacity, new large-scale energy sources, and an expanded fiber-optic network at one place.

The 1-GW hyperscale Google Data Centre is expected to generate approximately ₹10,000 crore in revenue for Andhra Pradesh. Google's investment of about \$15 billion (USD) over five years (2026-2030) will create 5,000-6,000 direct jobs and 20,000-30,000 total jobs in the state.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Union Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh, and Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian.

Kurian said this is the company's largest investment outside the US.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a social media post, said that the multi-faceted investment aligns with the vision to build a Viksit Bharat. "It will be a powerful force in democratizing technology. It will also ensure AI for All, delivering cutting-edge tools to our citizens, boosting our digital economy and securing India's place as a global technology leader!"

Google CEO Sundar Pichai said through this gigawatt-scale initiative, "we will bring our industry-leading technology to enterprises and users in India, accelerating AI innovation and driving growth across the country."

P7

Amid rift buzz, BJP's first list out

Deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary and former Union minister Ram Kripal Yadav get tickets

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

AMID speculations that the NDA seat-sharing deal has left him grumpy, Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar on Tuesday gave away tickets, bypassing the earlier practice of announcing names of candidates at a press conference.

On the same day, BJP, which is now on an equal political pedestal as the JD(U) in terms of seats contested, released the first list of 71 candidates, nine of whom are women.

Springing a surprise, the BJP denied a ticket to Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav, a seven-term legislator, while fielding Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary in a direct election after over a decade.

Chaudhary has been fielded



Meloni moment as Pak PM bats for Nobel to Don

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif speaks as US President Donald Trump and Britain's PM Keir Starmer, flanked by Italian premier Georgia Meloni, watch during the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit in the Egyptian Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh early on Tuesday. It was a facepalm moment for Meloni as soon as Sharif pitched Trump for next year's Nobel Peace Prize

Dad Lalu proposes, son disposes

RJD president Lalu Prasad Yadav late on Monday night gave away party tickets to 10 candidates at his home, but was stopped when his son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav insisted that the ticket distribution should take place only after consultation with alliance partners. The candidates were then asked to return their tickets, though enthusiastic ones like Sunil Singh, who quit JD(U) to join the RJD, went ahead and filed their nomination | P12

from Tarapur in Munger while his colleague and deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha will contest from Lakhisarai. Rajiv Kumar Singh of the JD(U) had won the Tarapur seat in the by-election held in 2021. This time, the seat has gone to BJP.

Samrat Chaudhary, a member of the legislative council (MLC), recently hogged the limelight after Jan Suraj Party (JSP) founder Prashant

Kishor accused him of misleading courts about his real age to get reprieve in a murder case.

Nand Kishore Yadav, a veteran MLA from Patna Sahib has been replaced by new candidate, Ratnesh Kushwaha.

Former Union minister Ram Kripal Yadav, who lost to RJD chief Lalu Prasad's eldest daughter Misa Bharti in the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Patliputra, has been fielded

from Danapur, the seat currently held by criminal-turned politician Ritlal Yadav.

Sources said the JD(U) boss is peeved over a few seats allotted either to the BJP or the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). LJP has got 29 seats, despite not having a single MLA. It appears that Kumar, who is known to dump allies and forge new coalitions at will, was angry that his party was not given the lion's share in the seat deal.

It was not clear at the time of going to press how many JD(U) candidates got tickets during the day. However, prominent among those who did are minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav, state JD(U) chief Umesh Kushwaha (Mahnar) and gangster-turned-politician Anant Kumar Singh.

ELEPHANT POPULATION DOWN 18%

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

INDIA'S elephant population has plummeted by approximately 18% since the 2017 census, marking the third consecutive decline since 2012. The steepest drops occurred in the Northeast Hills, Brahmaputra floodplains, and Central India, with Karnataka retaining the highest elephant numbers, followed by Assam.

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), responsible for the census, adopted a new DNA-

based mark-recapture technique for the 2021-2025 estimate, rendering direct comparisons with prior counts impossible. Unlike previous methods—direct counts, waterhole surveys, footprint mapping, and thermal imagery—the new approach establishes a fresh baseline for future monitoring.

The latest estimate pegs India's Asian elephant population around 22,446 (range: 18,255-26,645), a loss of over

4,000 elephants since 2017's count of 27,312, which was down 3,000 from 2012. The Western Ghats host the largest population at 11,934 (down from 11,960 in 2017), followed by the Northeast Hills and Brahmaputra floodplains at 6,559 (down from 10,139). The Shivalik Hills report 2,062 elephants (slightly down from 2,085), while Central India and the Eastern Ghats have 1,891, a sharp decline from 3,128.



EXPRESS READ

Houses on sites up to 1,200 sqft need no OCs

Bengaluru: The government has exempted houses built on plots up to 1,200 sqft — ground plus two floors or stilt plus three floors — in GBA limits from obtaining Occupancy Certificates (OC). The order was passed on October 13.

Not paid for months, librarian dies by suicide

Kalaburagi: A 40-year-old library supervisor in Kalaburgi district hanged herself at her workplace as she allegedly had not received her salary for three months | P4

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